

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1293

UNCLAS GENEVA 4479

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP WORKING PARTY ON NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL

REF: GENEVA 4038

1. NETH MISSION INFORMED US MORNING OF AUG 20 THAT, AFTER CONSIDERING THE RATHER DISCOURAGING REACTION AT THE GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON JULY 30, 1973 TO ITS PROPOSAL TO SPONSOR CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE GON HAD DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL. NETH MISSION REQUESTED OUR ADVICE AS TO WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, THERE WAS ANY POINT IN HAVING THE WORKING PARTY MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON. MISOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NETH REACTION TO COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS AT LAST MEETING WHICH TO US DEL RECOLLECTION HAD BEEN RESERVED AND CAUTIOUS BUT HARDLY DISCOURAGING. IN FACT INFORMAL SYNTHESIS OF VIEWPOINTS AT THAT MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED BY NETH MISSION HAD SEEMED TO BE OF A RATHER OPTIMISTIC NATURE. MISOFF COUNSELLED NETH TO HOLD MEETING AS SCHEDULED AND THIS WAS AGREED UPON.

2. WORKING PARTY ATTENDED BY REPS ALL 10 MEMBERS (SWISS AND SWEDISH OBSERVERS ABSENT). ANNOUNCEMENT BY NETH AMBASSADOR THAT PROPOSAL BEING WITHDRAWN WAS GREETED WITH EVIDENT SURPRISE BY MOST MEMBERS. UK WONDERED WHETHER

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DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AT WORKING LEVEL IN GENEVA

AND WHETHER, AFTER ALL, GENEVA GROUP WAS RIGHT FORUM. UK FELT THAT UNCTAD TYPE PROBLEMS WERE THOSE MOST NEEDING ATTENTION OF SUCH APPROACHES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WAS SORRY TO HEAR OF NETH DECISION AND FELT MATTER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER WITHIN GENEVA GROUP AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING SPONSORSHIP FOR TALKS BY A FOUNDATION SUCH AS CARNEGIE OR STANLY OR EVEN BY UNITAR. ITALY REGRETTED NETH DECISION AND HOPED GENEVA GROUP WOULD CONTINUE EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM. GERMANY ALSO THOUGHT FURTHER ATTENTION BY GROUP WOULD BE USEFUL. AUSTRALIA SUGGESTED THAT WORKING PARTY SHOULD REPORT TO GENEVA GROUP AS A WHOLE AND THAT MEANWHILE MEMBERS SHOULD SEEK REACTION FROM GOVS POSSIBLY WITH A VIEW TO DEFINING MORE POSITIVELY THEIR RESPECTIVE REACTIONS TO THE ORIGINAL NETH PROPOSAL. US REGRETTED NETH DECISION EXPRESSED VIEWPOINT THAT REACTIONS AT LAST MEETING HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY DISCOURAGING AND THAT PERHAPS IF MEMBERS CAME FORWARD IN THE FUTURE WITH MORE AFFIRMATIVE POSITIONS, NETH MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW PROPOSAL.

3. NETH AMBASSADOR AGREED REPORT TO GENEVA GROUP ON RESULTS OF MEETING AUG 20 NOTING VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS.

4. FOLLOWING THE MEETING MISOFF ADVISED BY NETH COLLEAGUE THAT NETH MISSION HAD ALSO BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY GON REACTION AND INTERPRETS IT TO MEAN THAT MINISTRY OPINION ON THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN DIVIDED FROM THE OUTSET. THE SEVERAL RESERVATIONS, DOUBTS AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS MADE AT GENEVA GROUP ON JULY 30 HAD APPARENTLY TIPPED THE SCALES IN FAVOR OF THOSE OPPOSING PROPOSAL.

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